

IHC-MM-147
24 April 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

25X1 SUBJECT: Suggested [] File for COINS

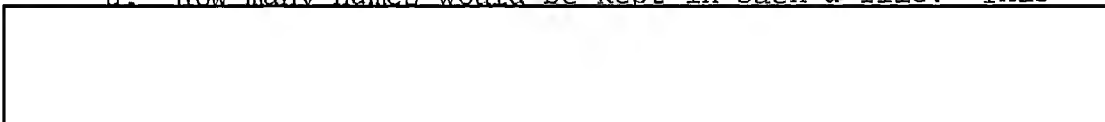
25X1 1. On this date, [] COINS Project Manager,
chaired a meeting in Room 2E62, CIA Hqs., on the subject of this
memo. Those in attendance were:



2. The tone of the discussion was primarily exploratory.
The State Department people had prepared a paper (attached),
and the Chairman used this paper as a guide for discussion.

3. The usual kinds of questions arose:

a. How many names would be kept in such a file? This



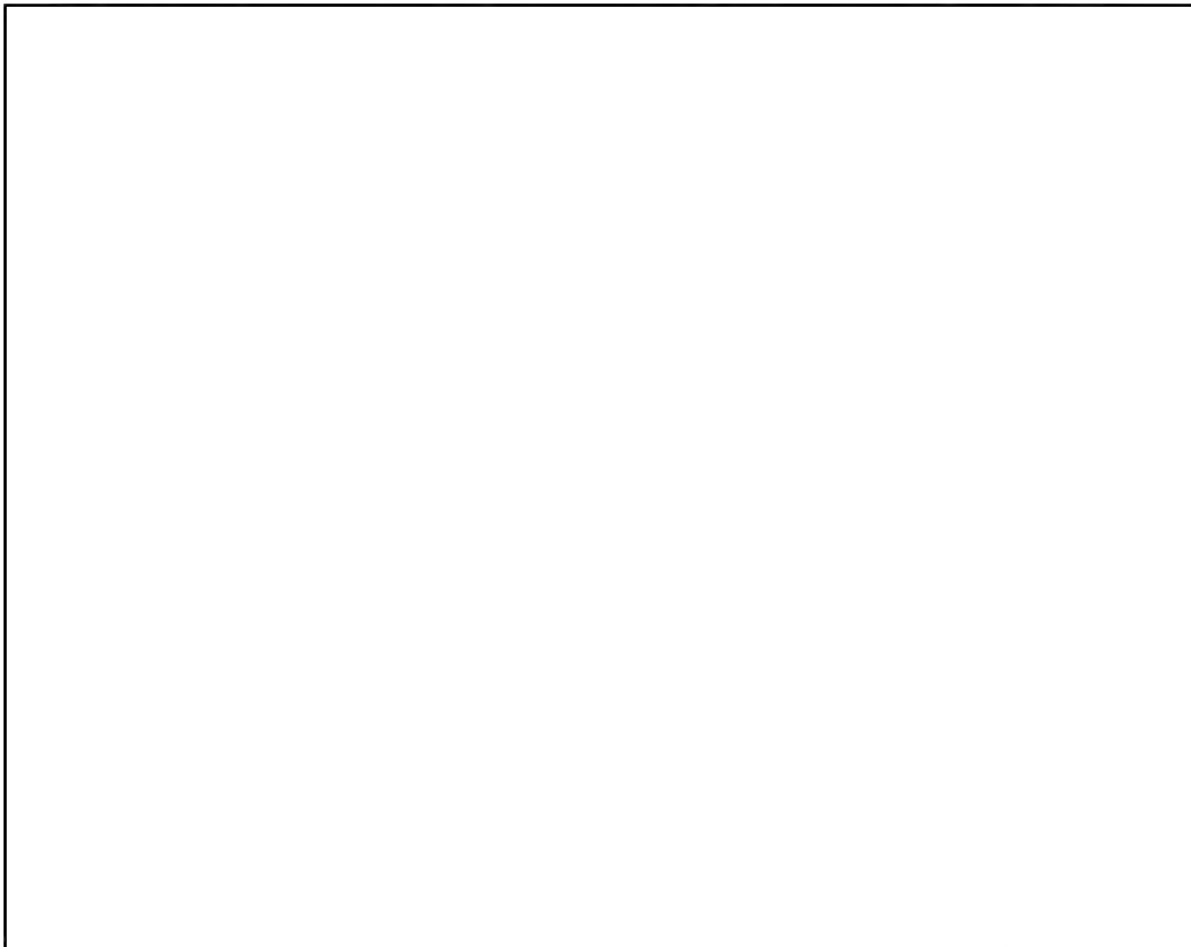
b. What would be the size of the file in terms of
elements of data? This received a lot of discussion and its
was apparent that if every need were satisfied, a record
on a person could become rather large.

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25X1 c. In what way does the present service that the community offers its [] analysts fail, or is unsatisfactory? In other words, who needs such a file and is willing to state that the expense of its creation is necessary? Interestingly enough, Brewer Merriam of State Department announced that State likes the idea of this file and would use it extensively. He went on to note that for the most part the files presently in COINS hold little or no interest for State Department analysts.



25X1 4. Of interest to me was the number of times that people in the room asked the key question, i.e., "What is the requirement for such a file?" [] asked it; [] asked the question, though I don't think many people heard him. [] introduced a requirement that would cause such a file to become



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5. One of the interesting points raised by [redacted] was that few people are able to estimate the cost of building such a file. Several people in the room including [redacted] indicated that they could help with data on this subject. George said that he would be interested in obtaining such figures. George also asked a number of searching questions of [redacted] from NSA. Jim confessed that he has a modest machine file along the lines discussed at this meeting. Several people asked questions but did not seem enthusiastic about this file or its potential. There was another suggestion (from [redacted] I believe) to the effect that future investigation of this subject be given to the [redacted] Panel of COINS as a responsibility.

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I don't think George finds that idea attractive. It appears that George wishes to pursue personally the development of files for COINS.

6. After the meeting George told me that he has scheduled two more meetings in the near future on the subject of files. Those meetings will involve different people. I indicated my interest in attending.

[redacted]

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Chief, IHC Support Staff

Attachment: As Stated

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